

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 OES-06 INT-05

DHA-02 PA-02 PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 IO-13

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R 251540Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4306

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0165

UNCLAS PARIS 24705

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FROM AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE FOR FCAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR/FR: EC ECON

SUBJECT: GOF ANNOUNCES DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

REF:A)PARIS 24642; B) PARIS 22507

1. AS INDICATED REF A (PARA.4), AGMIN BONNET JUST ANNOUNCED THAT FRENCH CABINET DECIDED TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE AID TOTALING 2.2 BILLION FF TO FARMERS MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT, MAINLY CERTAIN LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS (CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS AND HORSES) AND YOUNG FARMERS. DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS, PAYMENTS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR ANOTHER 30 TO 45 DAYS.

2. DIRECT PAYMENTS WILL BE BASED ON NUMBER OF ANIMAL UNITS AND TOTAL PAYMENTS PER FARMER WILL BE LIMITED TO 6,000 FF. PAYMENT LEVELS WILL ALSO VARY BY ZONE, FOUR OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN LINE WITH APCA (NATION-
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AL FARMERS' UNION) PROPOSAL REPORTED REF B (PARA.5).

3. CREDIT TERMS FOR FARMERS IN DISASTER AREAS WILL BE INCREASED FROM 4 TO 7 YEARS. MINISTER BONNET ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GOF WILL PAY INTEREST CHARGES IN 1976 FOR LOANS TO YOUNG FARMERS. SINCE INTEREST COSTS HIGHEST IN FIRST YEAR, THIS MEASURE WILL BENEFIT MOST RECENTLY ESTABLISHED YOUNG FARMERS.

4. BONNET INDICATED THAT RELIEF TO FARMERS WOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH EXTRA DIRECT TAXATION TO SHOW NATION'S SOLIDARITY WITH PLIGHT OF FARMERS. HE ALSO STATED THAT A TAX OF HIGHER INCOMES WOULD BE PREFERRED, BUT FINAL DECISION RESTS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

5. TECHNICALLY, THIS WAS BONNET'S LAST ACT AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SINCE THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT LEFT OFFICE WITH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S RESIGNATION JUST BEFORE NOON. THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY, AND BONNET MAY WELL BE REAPPOINTED.

6. GOF STILL PLANS TO ANNOUNCE TOTAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE ON SEPTEMBER 29.

7. AGATT ANALYSIS OF TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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